

California's Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan

The US Department of Homeland Security required that every state develop and adopt a statewide communications interoperability plan by the end of 2007 as a stipulation for receiving future homeland security grant funds for communications interoperability initiatives. However, the utility of developing such a statewide communications interoperability plan and the level of investment required does not end with this process. This document captures a shared understanding for the roles, responsibilities, and objectives required to make progress towards California's 2017 vision.

The 2008 *California Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (CalSCIP)* is the first-ever comprehensive initiatives-based strategy that will be implemented and updated every two years to advance the interoperable communications capabilities of California's public safety community. Development of the CalSCIP required information and expertise from several key governance groups across the State including local, regional, and state public safety representatives. The CalSCIP is designed to serve as a critical guiding document—a roadmap of sorts—in the effort to achieve communications interoperability not only within the state, but also across state lines and international boundaries.

The purpose of the CalSCIP is to achieve the State's strategic goals and develop a statewide strategic planning framework for an innovative, inclusive, scalable, sustainable, and well-managed interoperability infrastructure that promotes national standards and is effective in addressing the unique urban and rural requirements of public safety first responders and designated public service organizations serving the citizens of California. This mission requires a coordinated effort from the entire public safety community including local, regional, tribal, and state agencies. It is California's statewide interoperability vision that:

"By 2017, ensure all local, regional, tribal, state and Federal public safety first-responders and designated public service organizations operating within California are able to communicate in real time, across disciplines and jurisdictions, to respond more effectively during day-to-day operations and major incidents."

In support of the strategic 2017 vision, the following goals focus on improved interoperable communications:

- **Goal 1: Governance** – Maintain coordinated governance for integrated regional and statewide public safety voice and data interoperable communications systems planning
- **Goal 2: Standard Operating Procedures** – Maintain NIMS/SEMS-compliant Standard Operating Procedures for statewide interoperable communications
- **Goal 3: Technology** – Develop a statewide standards-based System of Systems communications network for California's public safety and designated public service practitioners
- **Goal 4: Training & Exercise** – Ensure that regular interoperable communications training and exercise opportunities are designed and offered statewide to California's public safety and designated public service practitioners
- **Goal 5: Usage** – Encourage daily usage statewide of interoperable communications equipment and Standard Operating Procedures

Steps will be made towards the goals through the accomplishment of 16 2008 CalSCIP initiatives. This statewide plan identifies key short- and long-term strategic initiatives for the state to consider when addressing grant funding allocations and disbursement, planning for interoperability projects, and coordinating across disciplines and jurisdictions to improve communications. Each initiative is a stepping stone towards the achievement of one or more of the strategic goals and is grouped into overarching categories: Governance, Technology, SOPs, Training and Exercises, Usage, and Funding.

California is committed to the improvement of statewide public safety interoperable communications through effective governance, stakeholder management and coordination, and continues to be a leader in the nation. This plan represents the collective expertise of California's public safety community, documents the existing efforts underway to bridge interoperability gaps, and identifies a path forward to guide the implementation of future initiatives.